



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Information Services



**Date:** July 3, 2013

**Board Meeting Date:** August 6, 2013

**Special Notice / Hearing:** None

**Vote Required:** 4/5ths

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Jon Walton, CIO/Director of Information Services Department

**Subject:** Appropriation Transfer Request – First Responder Radio Equipment

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Resolution authorizing an Appropriation Transfer Request in the amount of \$5,723,527, transferring revenue from the Public Safety Half-Cent Sales Tax Fund and Intrafund Transfers from various San Mateo County Departments to the Information Services Department. Make corresponding appropriations in Services and Supplies and Fixed Assets-Equipment for the San Mateo Interoperable Radio Communications radio user migration to improve first responder communication capabilities.

**BACKGROUND:**

Since 2005, San Mateo County (County) has engaged with our regional partners (including agencies within the eight surrounding Bay Area counties, Sacramento, the State of California, SamTrans, and other agencies) in a variety of initiatives related to improving First Responder communication capabilities. To that end the County began the implementation of the San Mateo Interoperable Radio Communications (SMIRC) project in 2007. Users of the system include the Sheriff's Office, Probation, American Medical Response (AMR), Emergency Medical Services (EMS), District Attorney, Coroner, Peninsula Humane Society, SamTrans, Public Health, Public Works, Parks, and other allied agencies.

The project involves the development of a 700 Megahertz P25 radio system. The P25 technology is a standards based architecture developed specifically for public safety. This technology is endorsed by Federal regulatory and standards agencies, and it is being adopted by Public Safety agencies nationwide to improve interoperability. The SMIRC system will replace the County's aging legacy radio system which is becoming increasingly more difficult and costly to support. In addition, this new radio system will increase interoperable communications between the County's First Responders and other agencies. This enhanced interoperability will position the County to more efficiently and effectively respond to disasters or major events (i.e. earthquakes, plane crashes, the Super Bowl, America's Cup, etc.) within the County, or when County agencies respond to support our regional partners outside of the County's jurisdiction.

**DISCUSSION:**

When the project began, the initial approach was to build the SMIRC system in phases dependent on funding availability. The goal was to acquire as much grant funding as possible to apply towards this system. Of the \$19.4 million required to complete the project, \$14 million is for infrastructure, which has been funded by Federal grant funds, user surcharges and fund balances. The remaining \$5.72 million is for the procurement and deployment of P25 radio end user equipment.

Due to the decreasing availability of grant funds over the last several years, we are recommending the use of Public Safety Sales Tax reserves and reserves from departments that will be using the system. We have secured a significant discount from the vendor if the purchase order is placed by September 2013. This SMIRC project is now in its seventh year of implementation and if it is not completed the County will be exposed to the following risks:

- The Public Safety Communications system will experience reduced reliability. The current system is no longer manufactured and the availability of replacement parts, software and support is becoming more difficult to obtain. This situation increases the risk for system outages which could last for prolonged periods of time before restoration.
- The vendor is offering a limited time discount of approximately 22% for equipment purchased by September 2013. If the County does not meet this deadline, the County will lose the \$1.4 million in savings it represents.
- Higher recurring support costs due to maintaining two separate radio systems (minimum estimated increase of \$300,000 annually related to higher utility costs, additional staff hours and increased costs for parts and repairs).
- Higher implementation costs related to delaying the completion of the project. Examples of these costs include unnecessary software or hardware compatibility upgrades, re-deployment of resources and contractors and unnecessary work-arounds for the existing system.

With the Board's approval, ISD will work with the equipment vendor and system user agencies to complete the project by July 2014. With the completion of the project, the County's radio user agencies will reap the benefits of greater first responder interoperability, improved radio coverage, improved system performance and improved user equipment performance.

Approval of this ATR contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community because it will provide all County radio users with increased communications interoperability with other Local, State and Federal regional partners.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):**

Measure	FY 2012-13 Actual	FY 2013-14 Projected
Number of Trunked Radio Users	1473	1900

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This Appropriation Transfer Request for \$5,723,527 provides funding for equipment, ISD labor and vendor services to complete the SMIRC radio user migration. The costs

to complete this project are included in ISD's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

**Attachment:**  
**Exhibit A – SMIRC Funding**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Agency cost for radios and accessories</b>	<b>FUNDING - Department</b>	<b>FUNDING - Prop 172</b>
Coroner	\$77,754	\$77,754	
DA	\$58,005		\$58,005
Parks	\$396,172		\$396,172
PHS	\$106,000	\$106,000	
Planning	\$26,007	\$26,007	
Probation	\$355,304		\$355,304
PSCC	\$76,414		\$76,414
Public Health		Grant funded	
Public Works	\$373,698	\$373,698	
Radio Shop	\$47,990	\$47,990	
Sheriff's Office	\$3,747,168	\$1,873,584	\$1,873,584
EMS		Grant funded	
Sys Spares	\$303,525		\$303,525
Allied Agencies	\$155,490	\$155,490	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,723,527</b>	<b>\$2,660,523</b>	<b>\$3,063,004</b>